

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 36, under the section heading Brief Description of the Drawing Figures, with the following paragraph:

The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURES ~~[[1A-1D]]~~ 1A and 1B are side elevational views of ~~[[several]]~~ prior art microneedles;

FIGURE 2 is an isometric view of an array of prior art microneedles that can be fabricated using techniques common to semiconductor fabrication;

FIGURE 3A is a side elevational view of a hollow microneedle in accord with the present invention;

FIGURE 3B is a plan view of the hollow microneedle of FIGURE 3A;

FIGURE 4 is a side elevational view of another embodiment of a hollow microneedle in accord with the present invention, in which a base of the microneedle is substantially wider than a height of the microneedle;

FIGURE 5 is schematic view of a plurality of microneedles formed as an array, each microneedle in the array being like that illustrated in FIGURES 3A-3B;

FIGURE 6 is a flow chart illustrating the sequence of logical steps used to fabricate a hollow microneedle in accord with the present invention;

FIGURES 7A-7J are schematic representations of the sequence of logical steps used to fabricate a hollow microneedle in accord with the flow chart of FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 8 is a schematic representation of a handheld diagnostic system that utilizes an array of microneedles in accord with the present invention;

FIGURE 9 is a block diagram showing the functional elements of the handheld diagnostic system of FIGURE 8;

FIGURE 10 is a partially exploded view showing a disposable cartridge that includes a microneedle array for use in the handheld diagnostic system of FIGURE 8;

FIGURE 11 is a side elevational view of the microneedle array used in the disposable cartridge of FIGURE 9;

FIGURE 12 is a schematic representation of a handheld drug delivery system that utilizes an array of microneedles in accord with the present invention;

FIGURE 13 is a block diagram showing the functional elements of the handheld drug delivery system of FIGURE 12;

FIGURE 14 is a partially exploded view of a disposable cartridge that incorporates a microneedle array for use in the handheld drug delivery system of FIGURE 12;

FIGURE 15 is a side elevational view of the microneedle array used in the disposable cartridge of FIGURE 14;

FIGURE 16 is a schematic representation of a portion of a microneedle element for use in the handheld drug delivery system of FIGURE 12, illustrating a fluid path within the element; and

FIGURE 17 is a schematic representation of a drug reservoir for use in the handheld drug delivery system of FIGURE 12, illustrating a self-sealing membrane, two actuators, and a sub-micron filter.